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PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants	Pieter Adriaan Oosterling, <i>et al.</i>
Serial No. - Pending	Filing Date: June 13, 2001
Title of Application	Device and Method for Milking Animals

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

Amendment Revisions

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) Device for milking animals, comprising at least one milking stall with means (1, 2, 3) for extracting milk, means (3, 4) for de-aerating the milk which has been extracted and means (6) for conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank (11) for storage for a prolonged period, characterized in that the storage volume (12) of the milk tank (11) is [designed as] a closed chamber with a variable volume which corresponds to the volume of the milk stored in the milk tank (11).

2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device comprises cooling means (9, 10) for cooling the milk to approximately the storage temperature while the milk is being conveyed to the milk tank.

3. (Amended) Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the milk tank is positioned in a cooled environment and [or] is provided with cool walls.

4. (Amended) Device according to claim 1 [, 2, or 3,] characterized in that at least part of [the] a wall [s] (31) of the milk tank (11) is made from a flexible material [s].